

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 205673

PASS TO GEO A DALLEY THROUGH WILLIAM HALLMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 13922 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
LONDON PARIS BRUSSELS GENEVA DATED AUG 26:

QTE: UNCLAS ROME 13922

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IT, EGEN

SUBJECT: ITALIAN LABOR CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE ILO

REF: STATE 202728

1. SUMMARY. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-ORIENTED LABOR
CONFEDERATION CISL HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY A COPY
OF A LETTER ADDRESSED (IN ENGLISH) ON JULY 29, 1977, TO GEORGE
MEANY, PRESIDENT OF THE AFL-CIO, FROM LUIGI MACARIO, CISL
SECRETARY GENERAL. THE LETTER EXPRESSES APPREHENSION OVER THE
PROSPECT OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO, AFFIRMS THAT CISL
SHARES THE AMERICAN CONCERN TO RETURN THE ILO TO ITS BASIS
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GOALS, AND PROPOSES A MEETING OF TOP WESTERN LABOR LEADERS
PRIOR TO THE AMERICAN DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL. CISL ALSO HAS
REVEALED A DEMARCHE IT MADE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JULY 21,
TO EXPRESS ITALIAN LABOR'S CONCERN OVER PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO, AND TO LEARN OF ITALIAN
OVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES TO INDUCE THE USG TODESIST.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF A LETTER ADDRESSED
ON JULY 29, 1977 BY CISL SECRETARY GENERAL MACARIO TO AFL-CIO

PRESIDENT MEANY:

"DEAR BROTHER MEANY,

"FOLLOWING THE INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE CONSULTATIONS GOING ON AT THE
MOMENT BETWEEN THE EEC COUNTRIES AND THE USA WITH REGARD TO
THE AMERICAN INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO, WE WANT TO
EXPRESS TO YOU, ONCE GAIN, OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR SUCH A
POSSIBILITY.

"AS A MATTER OF FACT WE SHARE THE VIEW THAT ILO NEEDS TO BE
BROUGHT BACK TO ITS BASIC GOALS OF IMPROVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS THROUGH-
OUT THE WORLD, AVOIDING, AT THE SAME TIME, ANY IMPROPER POLITICAL
INVOLVEMENT.

"CISL REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ITALIAN LABOR DELEGATION AS A
WHOLE ACTED DURING 1976 AND 1977 ILO CONFERENCES WITH THIS
OBJECTIVE IN MIND, AND WE INTEND TO CONTINUE ALONG THE SAME
LINES IN THE FUTURE.

"WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD RESULT IN
A DANGEROUS WEAKENING OF THE ONLY U.N. AGENCY BASED ON TRIPARTITISM
AND WOULD NOT HELP IN CARRYING OUT THE REFORMS THAT ARE NEEDED
IN ITS STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING. FURTHERMORE, AMERICAN
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LABOR ABSENCE FROM ILO WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE INFLUENCE
OF THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL
SCENE.

"FOR ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS WE WONDER IF A CONSULTATION AMONG
THE MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS OF THE
WESTERN WORLD ON ILO FUTURE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS STAGE,
BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN.

"WITH MY BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

"FRATERNALLY,
S/LUIGI MACARIO

GENERAL SECRETARY"

3. CISL HAS ALSO MADE AVAILABLE A PRESS RELEASE (CARRIED IN NO
NEWSPAPERS OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE) REGARDING A MEETING HELD ON
JULY 21, 1977 IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE PURPOSE
OF REGISTERING CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF US WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE ILO. THE STATEMENT INDICATES THAT THE FEDERATION
CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) REGISTERED ITS CONCERN OVER THIS
PROSPECT. UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOSCHI AND UNDER
SECRETARY OF LABOR ARMATO INFORMED THE CCU OF RECENT EFFORTS
BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT (PRESUMABLY, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S

INITIATIVE IN WASHINGTON) AND BY THE EEC COUNTRIES TO INDUCE THE UNITED STATES TO DESIST. THE CCU ASSERTED ITS CONVICTION THAT US WITHDRAWAL "WOULD PROVOKE A NOTABLE WEAKENING OF THE ONLY UN AGENCY IN WHICH, IN THE DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WHICH INTEREST THE WORLD OF LABOR, THERE IS GOVERNMENT, MANAGEMENT AND TRADE UNION PARTICIPATION." THE CCU ALSO MADE THE POINT THE ILO STILL HAS MAJOR TASKS TO PERFORM IN THE FIELDS OF "THE EMANCI-PATION OF WORK AND OF FULL SOCIAL JUSTICE," WHICH "ARE NOT FULLY ACHIEVEABLE UNLESS THE NECESSARY UNIVERSALITY IS GUARANTEED."

4. COMMENT. THOSE FEW INDIVIDUALS IN THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT WHO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEVELOPMENTS (I.E. PRIMARILY THOSE CHARGED WITH INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS) ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED OVER PROSPECTIVE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ILO. HOWEVER, THIS CONCERN DOES NOT STAND VERY HIGH IN THE HIERARCHY OF PROBLEMS WHICH PROCCUPY MORE SENIOR OFFICIALS. FOR EXAMPLE, NO SENIOR LABOR OFFICIAL HAS EVER BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH THE LABOR ATTACHE, NOR HAS UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR ARMATO, WHOM THE LABOR ATTACHE HAS SEEN QUITE REQUENTLY IN RECENT MONTHS, EVER RAISED THE MATTER. HOLMES UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770311-0006
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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